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**INL Park and Ride program to begin operations**

IDAHO FALLS — In a move to improve safety and sustainability, Idaho National Laboratory will begin using a Park and Ride program next week to transport INL employees to and from Site facilities west of Idaho Falls.

Using three parking lots throughout the Idaho Falls area, the Park and Ride program will create centralized and secure locations for employees to park their vehicles, board buses and depart for their work facilities. Three lots will be available to INL employees. The largest lot is at the intersection of North Yellowstone Highway and Anderson Street.

The Park and Ride program is a change from previous door-to-door and route services, and will help INL save money on fuel costs, reduce overall bus emissions and shorten ride time by eliminating several start-and-stop routes. The move will also improve safety by eliminating the need for most large passenger buses to navigate through residential neighborhoods and streets.

"This is a milestone in the modernization of our fleet operations," said Carlo Melbihess, INL Facilities and Site Services director. "This move completes our large Park and Ride lots in Idaho Falls, while continuing to provide INL workers with a safe, affordable and environmentally friendly means of transportation."

The current 15-route schedule will be consolidated. This is expected to save the laboratory nearly 100,000 gallons of fuel each year. Employees using the service will be returned to the lots at the end of the day. INL already uses Park and Ride lots in Pocatello, and plans call for similar programs to be added in other communities.

In addition, route improvements and modern, fuel-efficient buses have saved millions of dollars and cut INL's petroleum fuel use by 22 percent since 2005. The move to a Park and Ride program will continue the lab's petroleum reduction efforts while providing INL workers with an economical means to get to work each day. Today, the laboratory operates more than 90 passenger buses to transport workers to and from its facilities.

Please note that the Park and Ride program will not replace the Naval Reactors Facility (NRF) bus routes. Workers at NRF report to a different Site contractor that has opted to continue purchasing door-to-door bus services from INL.

INL is one of the DOE's 10 multiprogram national laboratories. The laboratory performs work in each of DOE's strategic goal areas: energy, national security, science and environment. INL is the nation's leading center for nuclear energy research and development. Day-to-day management and operation of the laboratory is the responsibility of Battelle Energy Alliance.

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